

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Technical Advisory Panel

Report Run Date: 06/05/2019 12:30:20 AM

1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Technical Advisory
Panel

3b. GSA Committee No.

10760

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

07/14/2016

6. Expected Renewal Date

07/14/2018

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

Not Applicable

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Community Forest Restoration Act (Pub. L.
No.106-393, Title VI, Section 606)

13. Effective Date

10/30/2000

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Grant Review Committee

16a. Total Number of Reports

1

16b. Report Date

07/24/2018

Report Title

CollaborativeForest Restoration Program Technical Advisory Panel 2018
Report and Meeting Minutes

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 1 Meetings and Dates

Purpose

Grant review

Start

04/30/2018

End

- 05/02/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

Current FY Next FY

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members

\$0.00

\$0.00

18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members

\$0.00

\$0.00

18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$40,171.00	\$50,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$7,867.00	\$10,000.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$2,110.89	\$5,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$1,243.11	\$5,000.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$462.00	\$1,000.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$2,419.00	\$5,000.00
18d. Total	\$54,273.00	\$81,000.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.50	0.50

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The scope and objectives are to evaluate proposals for forest restoration grants and provide recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture regarding which proposals best meet the objectives of the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP). The duties and responsibilities of the Panel are to consider the proposed projects' effects on long-term management and provide recommendations regarding which proposals best meet the following objectives pursuant to section 605 of the Act: reduce the threat of large, high-intensity wildfires; reestablish fire regimes; preserve old and large trees; replant trees in deforested areas; improve the use of small diameter trees; comply with federal and state environmental laws; include a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders; incorporate current scientific forest restoration information; create a plan for reporting, upon project completion, on the positive or negative impact and effectiveness of each project including improvements in local management skills and on-the-ground results; create local employment or training opportunities.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Specific agencies, organizations and interests represented on the Panel are as follows: a state natural resources official from the state of New Mexico; at least two representatives from federal land management agencies; at least one tribal or pueblo representative; at least two independent scientists with experience in forest ecosystem restoration; and equal representation from conservation interests, local communities and commodity interests.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

Estimated Number of Meetings per Year: 1-3. Estimated Total Meetings: 3-6. In 2018 the Panel reviewed 15 grant applications totaling \$4,959,494 and prepared a report for the Secretary prioritizing the applications for funding based on the degree to which they met the program objectives in three categories: utilization; planning; and implementation. The Panel also assigned a subcommittee the task of reviewing multi-party assessments from

completed Collaborative Forest Restoration Program projects to identify lessons learned that would inform and improve the Panel's proposal review process.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

This committee is essential because designing forest and watershed restoration projects using a collaborative approach reduces conflict and facilitates cross jurisdictional planning and project implementation consistent with the Secretaries all lands approach.

Cost-effective projects that improve the utilization of small diameter trees from restoration activities creates local jobs and the private sector capacity that is critical to accomplishing forest restoration at a landscape scale. Collaborative restoration projects empower diverse organizations to implement activities which value local and traditional knowledge; build ownership and civic pride; and ensure healthy, diverse, and productive forests and watersheds. Advice of the committee is not available from other sources because only such a committee can provide an environment where interest groups that have a stake in forest management issues can work towards agreement on how forest restoration should occur on public land in New Mexico, with the grant proposals as the focus of the discussion. The grants fund diverse and balanced groups of stakeholders that work collaboratively with Federal, Tribal, State, County, and Municipal governments to plan, implement, and monitor forest restoration projects on public land in New Mexico.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings are open to the public.

21. Remarks

Eight of the nine current Panel members attended the 2018 CFRP Technical Advisory Panel meeting. The Tribal representative was not available to attend. Two seats for representatives of Conservation Interests and one seat for a Federal Land Management Agency representative are vacant.

Designated Federal Officer

Walter W. Dunn Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Manager

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Cambell, Stephen	07/25/2016	07/25/2019	Navajo County Extension Forester, University of Arizona	Representative Member
Hurteau, Mathew	07/25/2016	07/25/2019	Professor of Biology, University of New Mexico	Representative Member
Kuyendall, Sara	07/25/2016	07/25/2018	Kuuykendall and Sons Lumber	Representative Member
Nystrom, Krystyn	07/25/2016	07/25/2018	Wildfire Network	Representative Member
Old, Shiloh	07/25/2016	07/25/2018	Vice President, International Operations, Old Wood	Representative Member
Sanchez, John	07/25/2016	07/25/2018	Chair, New Mexico Land Grant Council	Representative Member

Suina, Phoebe	07/25/2016	07/25/2018	Environmental Specialist Program Manager, Cochiti Pueblo	Representative Member
Watson, Mark	07/25/2016	07/25/2019	Terrestrial Habitat Specialist, NM Dept. of Game and Fish	Representative Member
Zipperer, Constance	07/25/2016	07/25/2019	Supervisory Grants Management Specialist, USDA Forest Service	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 9

Narrative Description

The Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) Technical Advisory Panel evaluates grant proposals for forest restoration projects on public forestland that include a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders. The Panel uses a consensus-based process to develop recommendations for the Secretary on which proposals best meet the objectives of the Program. The Panel provides a venue for key stakeholders with an interest in forest restoration and small diameter tree utilization to develop agreement on how to accomplish those tasks on public forestland. The Panel improves communication and joint problem solving among individuals and groups who are interested in restoring the diversity and productivity of forested watersheds in New Mexico and encourages sustainable communities and sustainable forest through collaborative partnerships. This effort supports the agency mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests to meet the needs of present and future generations.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
------	--------------------------

Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

548

Number of Recommendations Comments

Since 2001, the CFRP Technical Advisory Panel has reviewed 548 proposals and recommended funding for 213 project grants totaling \$68.7 million to Tribes, businesses, NGOs, schools and universities, and state and local governments.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

100%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Since 2001 the Secretary of Agriculture has approved all of the committee's funding recommendations. On June 26, 2018 the Southwestern Regional Forester submitted the 2018 CFRP Panel project funding recommendations to the Forest Service Washington Office for transmittal to the Secretary. The Secretary approved those recommendations on August 21, 2018.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

NA

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The Chairman and DFO begin each Panel meeting with a briefing on program accomplishments. Panel members also attend an annual workshop with grant recipients to discuss accomplishments and lessons learned from project implementation. A Subcommittee reviews multi-party assessment reports from completed projects and provides recommendations to the Panel on what those reports indicate about past projects that could inform the evaluation of future project proposals.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

Yes

What is the estimated Number of grants reviewed for approval	15
What is the estimated Number of grants recommended for approval	10
What is the estimated Dollar Value of grants recommended for approval	\$3,420,132

Grant Review Comments

In 2018 the CFRP Panel reviewed and scored 15 grant applications totaling \$4,959,494 in Federal requests. Panel members considered information presented during the public comment periods and then conducted a consistency review of their comments and scores for each application. On July 20 the Panel Chairman approved the list recommending 10 CFRP projects totaling \$3,232,380 (the estimated funding available for CFRP grants in fiscal year 2018 at the time of the Panel meeting) and prioritized an additional project should additional funding become available.

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

Not applicable.